and every forming cloud, and every falling shower/" But while, there is a universal recognition among the reflecting community of the existence of general laws, there is about as universal a confusion of idea as to their nature. An inquiry into this topic may help to clear away much cloudiness of conception, in which not a few errors are lurking.

"Without going into any subtil ties/' says Sir John Herschel, '* I may be allowed to suggest, that it is at least high time that philosophers, both physical and others, should come to some nearer agreement than seems to prevail as to the meaning they intend to convey in speaking of causes and causation. On the one hand, we are told that the grand object of physical inquiry is to explain the nature of phenomena by referring them to their causes; on the other, that the inquiry into causes is altogether vain and futile, and that science has no concern but with, the discovery of laws. Which of these in the truth ? Or are both views of the matter true, on a different interpretation of the terms ? Whichever view we may take, or whichever interpretation we may adopt, there is one thing certain, the extreme inconvenience of such a state of language. This can only be reformed by a careful analysis of the widest of all human generalizations, disentangling from one another the innumerable filiation of meaning which have got confounded together in its progress, and establishing among them a rational classification and nomenclature. Until this be done, we cannot he sure, that by the relation of cause and effect, one and the same kind of relation is understood."* The remark of thin distinguished philosopher is one of the many signs of the times which indicate, that though scientific men are commonly disposed to turn away from metaphysical philosophy, they will soon be compelled to betake themselves to it; not only with the view of constructing a correct

logic, of physical investigation, but for the very purpose of expelling the errors which have taken refuge in the, region oi fundamental principles—a region, no doubt, often covered with clouds, but where all the streams of science have their fountains

We have lonjjfelt the desideratum to which Sir John IlerHchoi refers, and we have especially felt it when seeking to dincuss th< questions which fall to be answered in the inquiry into tlu, physical government of God. It would he presumptuous in w

fH AtldivsM tn ilritixh AnHticiulioij. IH4"»,